Eco 405: Seminar in Economic Theory and Policy
Spring 2009
Course Syllabus

Instructor: John Kane
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 3:00
            Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00
            Thursday 2:00 – 3:00
            (and by appointment)

Class website: http://www.oswego.edu/~kane/eco405.htm

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of selected topics in economic theory and policy. Since this course is designed for senior-level economics majors, it is designed to apply the basic microeconomic and macroeconomic theory developed in our introductory and intermediate theory courses to the analysis of contemporary policy issues. The material covered in this course should provide both greater depth and breadth to the student’s understanding of economic theory.

Since this is a seminar course, each student is expected to actively participate in the course. This participation will include:

- presenting course material to the class and serving as a discussion leader at least twice during the semester.
- writing a paper on a topic related on a policy area (this might include those areas listed below, but need not do so). The results of this study will be presented to the class at the last scheduled class meeting before the final exam.
- actively participating in class discussions. It should be obvious that this requires that each student complete all assigned readings prior to each class. Class attendance is clearly a necessary condition for this participation.

In addition to the above requirements, there will also be two essay exams. The final grade in this course will be determined using the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>class presentations</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>project</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>midterm exam (3/16)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>final exam (Monday, 5/18)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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All required readings are available online through links provided on the class website. (The specific readings may change based upon the interests of those in the class.)
College Policy on Intellectual Integrity

Intellectual integrity on the part of all students is basic to individual growth and development through college course work. When academic dishonesty occurs, the teaching/learning climate is seriously undermined and student growth and development are impeded. For these reasons, any form of intellectual dishonesty is a serious concern and is therefore prohibited.

The full intellectual integrity policy can be found at http://www.oswego.edu/administration/registrar/policy_text.html#cpii

I. Introduction: Market Efficiency


II. Market Failure


III. Unbalanced Growth


IV. Economics of War


V. Professional Sports


VI. Health Care Issues

VII. Social Choice Theory


VIII. Economics of the Family


IX. Economics of Education


X. Gender Wage Discrimination


XI. Minimum Wage Laws and Unemployment


Margaret O'Brien-Strain and Thomas MaCurdy, “Increasing the Minimum Wage: California's Winners and Losers,” *Public Policy Institute of California*, (May
XII. Social Security


XIII. Additional topics (as time permits)

Note: If you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the Office of Disabled Student Services, 226 Hewitt Union. Phone: 312-3358. E-mail: dss@oswego.edu